

HOUSE RESOLUTION 130

By Hicks

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Hawkins Elementary School on the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this legislative body should recognize those exemplary educational institutions that have made significant contributions, through an abiding commitment to excellence, to their respective communities and to this State; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy institution is Hawkins Elementary School (HES), which recently celebrated its fiftieth anniversary; for half a century, this school has offered an unmatched educational experience and fostered the growth and broadening of some of Tennessee's finest minds; and

WHEREAS, when HES opened in 1968, the school served grades one through eight under the leadership of principal Bill Snodgrass; during the 1970s, kindergarten was added to HES, and eighth grade was moved to the high school; and

WHEREAS, when Cherokee High School opened in 1980, HES became a K-4 school; that same year, Mr. Snodgrass was elected Superintendent of the Hawkins County School District, and Douglas "Mac" Smith, an HES teacher of five years, was named the new principal; and

WHEREAS, HES grew beyond its capacity due to enrollment increases and State-mandated class size reductions, so a number of mobile units were added to handle the growing student body; at one point, the number of mobile classrooms equaled the number of classrooms inside the building, and student enrollment exceeded 700 students; because of this growth, Mildred Welch, an HES teacher since 1970, was named the school's first assistant principal in the early 1990s; and

WHEREAS, upon the opening of Joseph Rogers Primary School, all HES students in kindergarten, first grade, and second grade were rezoned, and only third and fourth grade students remained at HES; fifth grade students from Rogersville Middle School returned to HES, and the school assumed its current grades 3-5 configuration under the leadership of principal Mildred Welch; and

WHEREAS, all mobile classrooms were removed in 2001 following the completion of a new addition at HES, and Barry Bellamy, previously the principal at Surgoinsville Elementary School, became the current HES principal in 2004 upon Ms. Welch's retirement; over the past ten years, HES has averaged around 370 students each year; and

WHEREAS, since its inception, Hawkins Elementary School has enjoyed the teaching services of educators of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity and a support staff committed to public service and quality education for all; and

WHEREAS, the dedication to academic excellence demonstrated by all the fine individuals affiliated with Hawkins Elementary School is clearly deserving of the respect, admiration, and commendation of the members of this legislative body on this most auspicious occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor Hawkins Elementary School on the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary, commend its administration, faculty, and staff, both past and present, for their dedication to the highest tenets of education, and extend to them our best wishes for much continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.